

November 24, 2024
Ephesians 4:17-32
“Put Off, Put On”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Think about your aims and goals, if you accomplish all of them will it really matter, will it be of any spiritual significance? It's a sad thing to go through life and not attain the true purpose of your being born. With a clouded mind like this, vv 17-19, people will pass through life unable to receive God's revelation, their understanding will be darkened leaving them separated and alienated from God. They will be left in total ignorance of God because of the hardening of their own hearts.

“Truth is confirming one's words to reality.” Vv 20-25 *Harold W. Hoener*

Keep short accounts, deal with anger-NOW. The reason behind this mandate is the devil would like nothing better than to take a Christian's righteous anger against sin and turn it into a foothold to lead that believer into unrighteousness, namely, sin. Do not let anger control you, you control your anger, even righteous anger. Warning!

There are six vices listed to dump: bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice. Here are three qualities to put on: kindness, compassion, forgiveness.

Discard your previous lifestyle, let that old way disintegrate like toilet paper in the septic tank. *Warren County Wisdom*

Instead of ongoing disintegration, be perpetually renovated in mind and spirit. Made new. Only by the influence of the Holy Spirit can this happen.

No cursing (cussing), no slander, no gossip, no divisive words. Speak words of peace, build up; anyone can tear down. Be a Barnabas. Be a benefit and a blessing to others. Be a conduit for God to exemplify His grace to others.

Application:

Believers, walk worthy and demonstrate that changed nature demands change behavior. Righteous anger is righteous, any other is sin. Even righteous anger can sour and turn ugly so put it to death every day don't let it be a carry over. Well spoken words are like a well driven nail, **Ecclesiastes 12:11**. “Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances, **Proverbs 25:11**. Let your words be gracious, do not grieve the Holy Spirit with corrupt speech. Believer, be tenderhearted.